



Construction Industry Round Table

Business News

A force for positive change in the design / construction industry

2/10/2015 – New Year Unemployment Continues to Improve – Construction Work Increasing

Unemployment figures from the Department of Labor indicate an increase of 257,000 jobs added in January 2015 (almost identical to the increase in December '14 – and well above the generally accepted estimate that it takes approximately 130,000 new jobs a month, just to absorb the expanding workforce). The non-seasonally adjusted unemployment figure for construction rose to 9.8% (BUT, it was substantially less than the January '14 by 2.5 basis points (percent points), when it stood at 12.3% suggesting the market is returning to the more normal seasonal unemployment ranges).

Interestingly, the continued job growth did not improve the overall unemployment number, in fact it ticked-up one-tenth of a point to 5.7%; due in large part to the larger measure “labor force participation” rate improving to 62.9% [coming off last month’s lowest level since Feb. 1978, when women were not as strongly represented in the workplace]. This appears to indicate that the improving overall picture is encouraging some people to get back into the active hunt for employment (which strangely negatively affects the overall unemployment percentage).